ruary, 1994 under the heading 'Bank Union fear closure of 15,000 branches; and

(b) what are the names of the Banks alongwith the number of their respective branches which are likely to be closed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. BARAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have proposed to the banks concerned that some of the chronic loss making branches, which are unlikely to improve their financial position despite all efforts, may either be coverted into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of such branches would be as under:—

Name of the Bank	No. of Branches peoposed to be closed by 31-3-94.
1. Andhra Bank	8
2. Bank of India	10
3. Bank of Maharashtra	10
4. Central Bank of India	10
5. Indian Oversesas Bank	10
6. Syndicate Bank	11
7. United Bank of India	25
8 UCO Bank	20
Total	104

Resource crunch faced by corporate sector

2144. SHRI AHMED MOHAMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the corporate sector continues to face resource crunch despite 4 per cent reduction in the minimum lending rate and a 3.7 per cent cut in the statutory liquidity ratio;

(b) if so, whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry have submitted a memorandum to RBI and has sought larger availability of credit to the Corporate Sector at a lower rate of interest;

(c) if so, whether it has also been pointed out by the ASSOCHAM that banks are still reluctant to put their money in free quilt-edged securities;

(d) if so, whether all the points mentioned in the Memo have been considered by Government;

(e) if so, to what extent they have been implemented; and

(f) what steps are being taken to help the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (f) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have informed that the Assoicated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) had submitted in December, 1993 a Note to them on various issues which included inter-alia, issues related to availability of credit to Corporate sector, rate of interest and export credit. These issues were discussed by RBI with the representatives of ASSOCHAM on December 23, 1993. The representatives of ASSOCHAM were informed inter-alia that RBI had advised banks to meet the genuine and felt requirements of borrowers and also to ensure that the delegated credit sanctioning powers were duly exercised and pending proposals for new loans as also renewals be processed within a maximum period of

three months. RBI informed the representatives of ASSOCHAM that notwithstanding the considerable rationalisation and simplification of the administered interest rate structure in the past few years, time was not yet opportune to free landing rates altogether. RBI also informed them about, the steps taken for ensuring timely and adequate availability of export credit. It was mentioned to them that pre-shipment export credit (Rupee) and post shipment export credit (denominated in foreign currency) is provided by the banks at concessional rates.

With a view to providing a stimulus to investment, the RBI have with effect from March 1, 1994 reduced the minimum lending rate of scheduled commercial banks on term loans of three years and above by one percentage point (from 15 per cent to 14 per cent).

Advertisements on cooking Medium in Doordarshan

2145. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that narration of some advertisements on the mediums of cooking, telecast on Doordarshan, intrude into the realm of medical science;

(b) if so, whether Government have verified the authenticity of these narrations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of new TV transmitters in Arunachal Pradesh

2146. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up low power T.V. Transmitters (L.P.Ts.) at Miao and very low power transmitters (V.L.PTs) at Yomcha, Tali, Mingong and Kalaktang of Arunachal Pradesh during the annual plan of 1993-94; and

(b) if so whether installation work has started at the above mentioned places and by when the installation works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. These TV transmitters are expected to be commissioned during 1994-95, subject to the availability of suitable sites|ready built accommodation and other infrastructural facilities for the purpose and also timely supply of equipment.

Less time for Nepali programme on Calcutta Doordarshan

2147. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a deep resentment has been created among the Nepali speaking people in West Bengal over the allocation of very short time for Nepali Programmes on Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra and for the low standard of presentation of the same;

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government are aware of requests for increasing the duration of programmes in Nepali telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta.

(a) and (c) Due to constraints of transmission time no enhancement of the quantum of such programmes from the Kendra is on the anvil at present.